

STUDY HELPS
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Some time after the last class someone asked me if there were some helps in connection with tracing the travels of these folks, and the answer is "yes, there's quite a bit of help along that line." I suppose that one of the things we forget is the fact that in the back of most of our Bibles there are maps, and there are indices to help us locate areas mentioned in the Bible. Those maps are probably one of the least used of all the sections of the Bible. If you want to study in more detail the geography of the Bible, there are a number of helps. For example, Hammond's Atlas of Bible Lands -- there are many maps and discussions that go along with them, and there are sections of events, for instance, the battle of Gilboa in which you can trace by means of lines and arrows the movements of the forces in that battle, and that gives you a good idea of what's taking place geographically and helps you to appreciate the Scripture a little more.

In using this book in connection with our study of Jacob -- you remember in our last chapter that Jacob and his wives and family and flocks left unexpectedly from Haran and headed down toward home (God had told them to do that). Then Laban took out after them. If you were to take a help like this and find Haran, and then find Mizpah, where Laban finally caught up with Jacob, you would find that Laban chased after Jacob somewhere between 350 and 400 miles. It must have been pretty important to him to do that. One of the reasons of course was that his household gods had been stolen, and I pity Laban that his gods could be stolen, but they were.

If you are still more interested in details, there is a Baker's Bible Atlas, which not only contains a complete set of maps but also discusses the Scripture section by section -- such as Lands of the Sojourns and Wanderings, the Exodus and Wilderness Wanderings, Palestine Before the Conquest, Conquest of Canaan. It discusses them in some detail, including an index in the back and a little discussion of the name of the place you might be interested in.

There is another one called The MacMillan Bible Atlas, and practically every geographical movement in the scripture has a map to go along with it. For example, on two pages there are five maps tracing the movements by means of arrows and dotted lines, with brief discussions.

There are one or two others that have been published since I have come down here to Florida to live, and I'm sorry I have been out of contact, but you can check with publishers you might find some. I'm aware of one published by Moody -- I do not have it, but I know Moody is a good publisher.

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